

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

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S E C R E T CAIRO 4787

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, US, XF
SUBJECT: PROPOSAL ON MEPC BY ARAB LEAGUE ASSISTANT SECRETARY
GENERAL

1. MUHAMMED AL-FARRA, ASSISTANT SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE ARAB LEAGUE IN CHARGE OF PALESTINIAN AFFAIRS AND HIMSELF A PALESTINIAN, MADE THE FOLLOWING "PERSONAL" PROPOSAL TO POLCOUNS APRIL 10. HE REQUESTED THAT IT BE TRANSMITTED TO AMBASSADOR. WHILE WE ASSUME DEPARTMENT HAS ALREADY CONSIDERED SIMILAR TYPE PROPOSALS, WE FORWARD IT FOR PERUSAL IN VIEW OF AL-FARR'S POSITION.

2. IN ORDER TO BREAK OUT OF THE CURRENT DEADLOCK OVER GENEVA, WHICH IN FARRA'S OPINION IS CAUSED BY ISRAELIS, UNSYG WOULD SEND A LETTER TO US AND USSR STATING THAT HE HAS ATTEMPTED THROUGH GUYER MISSION AND OTHER INITIATIVES TO FURTHER THE PEACE PROCESS. THESE EFFORTS HAVE BEEN UNSUCCESSFUL AND HE HAS CONCLUDED THAT ONLY WAY OUT OF STALEMATE IS TO CLARIFY TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR MEPC. THE US AND THE SOVIET UNION WOULD RESPOND TO THIS LETTER WITH A STATEMENT OF THE TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR MEPC AND NEGOTIATIONS FOR FINAL SETTLEMENT. THE TERMS OF REFERENCE/LETTER WOULD CONTAIN (A) THE ASSURANCES REQUIRED BY ISRAEL FROM THE PLO INCLUDING RECOGNITION OF THE RIGHT OF ISRAEL TO EXIST AS A STATE AT END OF NEGOTIATIONS AND (B) STATEMENTS THAT WOULD MEET MINIMUM PLO DEMANDS

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INCLUDING RECOGNITION THAT THE PALESTINIANS HAVE

LEGITIMATE RIGHTS INCLUDING THE RIGHT TO THEIR OWN STATE, THE FINAL BORDERS OF WHICH WOULD BE THE PRINCIPAL SUBJECT OF NEGOTIATIONS.

3. ACCORDING TO FARRA, THIS US/USSR RESPONSE SHOULD ALSO INCLUDE CAREFULLY DRAFTED "DECLARATION OF INTENTION" STATING THAT, IN RECOGNITION OF DANGER OF CURRENT STALEMATE, THEY ARE DETERMINED TO WORK TOWARD JUST PEACE TAKING INTO ACCOUNT THE RIGHT OF ALL STATES IN THE AREA TO EXIST WITHIN FIXED AND SECURE BORDERS, INCLUDING TO-BE-CREATED PALESTINIAN STATE, BUT WITHOUT INJURY TO STATE OF ISRAEL.

4. NEXT STEP WOULD BE ISSUANCE OF INVITATIONS TO ORIGINAL PARTIES PLUS PLO REFERRING TO EXCHANGE BETWEEN UNSYG AND US/USSR. THIS FORMULA WOULD ENABLE THE PLO TO ACCEPT INVITATION TO GENEVA WITHOUT MAKING ANY DECLARATION OF THEIR OWN BUT MERELY BY ACCEPTING THE INVITATION. AT SAME TIME, ISRAEL'S POLITICAL PROBLEM OVER RECOGNITION OF THE PLO WOULD BE LESSENED SINCE ISRAEL WOULD NOT BE REQUIRED TO MAKE PUBLIC STATEMENT AND COULD MEET EXPECTED CRITICISM BY POINTING TO PLO ACCEPTANCE OF TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE NEGOTIATIONS. SINCE THE INVITATIONS WOULD BE ISSUED SIMULTANEOUSLY AND THE ACCEPTANCE BY BOTH PARTIES COULD ALSO BE ANNOUNCED SIMULTANEOUSLY, BOTH SIDES COULD CLAIM THAT THEIR PRECONDITIONS FOR NEGOTIATIONS HAD BEEN MET.

5. FARRA PARTICULARLY STRESSED THAT US/USSR TERMS OF REFERENCE/INVITATION SHOULD NOT SPECIFICALLY MENTION RESOLUTIONS 242 OR 338, BUT SHOULD REFER TO NEGOTIATIONS ON BASIS OF ALL RELEVANT UN DOCUMENTS, WHICH WOULD INCLUDE ORIGINAL PARTITION RESOLUTION, 242, 338, ETC. STATEMENT COULD, HOWEVER, REFER TO RIGHT OF ISRAEL TO EXIST AND DETERMINATION OF PARTIES TO REACH SETTLEMENT WITHOUT INJURY TO ISRAEL.

6. FARRA SAID HE HAD NOT FLOATED THIS IDEA ELSEWHERE AND HAD NO IDEA WHAT SOVIET OR EVEN SYRIAN REACTION MIGHT BE.

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HOWEVER, HE THOUGHT ISRAELIS SHOULD RECOGNIZE THAT FOR THEM IT COULD MEAN REAL PEACE BECAUSE IT WOULD BE NEGOTIATED WITH PLO AND NOT WITH ARAB STATES WHO COULD ONLY OFFER TRUCES AND TEMPORARY CEASE-FIRES. FARRA FELT CONFIDENT PLO WOULD FIND PROPOSAL ATTRACTIVE. EILTS

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